



Example of a well lit street in Santa Monica, CA

### LIGHTING

Street lighting fixtures, in their design character, can signal the transition from one neighborhood to another, and can convey different moods and activities among streets and spaces within a neighborhood. Three or more levels of light from graduated fixture sizes can be used to provide a lighting landscape that is varied, beautiful, and relate to history of the District.

At present, the predominant fixture is an elongated contemporary "cobra head" (mercury vapor) street standard that lights both streets and sidewalks from an approximate 22-foot height, throwing a blue green light that is glaring and diffuse. At intersections, cobra head poles are also often mounted with long arms supporting traffic signals; alternatively, many traffic lights are mounted directly on only one corner. The effect at corners is a visual jumble.

### Lighting Needs:

For the driver. light signals things to come. Special illumination at traffic intersections -- where vehicles must anticipate pedestrian crossings, signal lights, and turning lanes -- serves an important safety function. Along Calhoun, intense light zones (at least three times the level of side streets), created by special corner treatment, will also add warmth, rhythmic cadence, perspective, and a certain kind of excitement.

Sidewalks and pedestrian areas require an intimate incandescent light source casting a warmer, more intense light than that of high diffuse street lamps. This type of lighting would require a special assessment as the City would not maintain incandescent. Placed with reasonable frequency, 12' high lamp posts increase actual and psychological security. Their glow brightens street trees and combines with ambient light from windows and entrances, and from indirect illumination of building walls, setting up a rhythm of light to define the street length, making it less threatening and formidable.

### Design Vocabulary

Any historical light standards of the District have been lost over the years. Recapturing the essence of past fixtures would entail expense and may not reflect the future of the district. Adapting contemporary fixtures to reflect the new image of the District provides an opportunity to create a special identity to the area. The identity could take the form of an emblem, color, planting baskets, etc, which would be integrated into the fixture and other elements within the District.

The fixture could be cast-iron or painted metal with a clear polycarbonate lamp cover and metal halide lamp.



Illustration of modified light fixture



Example of pedestrian scale fixture

### Recommendations:

To create special zones of illumination at major intersections, we propose the current "cobra heads" be replaced with an integrated fixture combining sidewalk lamp, overstreet light, and traffic signals. Along Calhoun, the fixtures would have additional projecting elements that create festive lighting.

Pedestrian area and sidewalk fixtures: Smaller scale light poles (12 to 15 feet) are recommended for incandescent illumination of sidewalks and other pedestrian oriented spots of specific character (i.e. pedestrian ways at Dennis Street to West Hollister and; mid-block between new park and Ohio Avenue).

### Lighting other Streets and Avenues

The proposed new fixtures set apart the special street and activity areas previously. It is recommended that consistent sidewalk lighting be characteristic of the business District. A modified sidewalk light should be developed to supplement or replace cobra heads that occur in the residential areas. The intention is to define the District as a consistently well-lighted area, yet the fixtures should be varied in scale, spacing, height and form to give visual distinction to each unique area.

Small street fixtures and/ or wall-mounted fixtures may be used to emphasize entrances and add ambiance and definition to an area or block. Such places would include outdoor cafes, entertainment uses, and courtyards.



Example of decorative light fixture integrated into streetscape

### Lighting for Drama and Perspective

- Special Over-street Lighting  
Create a canopy of light at the ends of Calhoun and key buildings.
- Park Lighting  
Install pedestrian height fixture with both up and down lighting - provides security at ground level and flood lighting of underside of trees creates a luminous foreground to adjacent park buildings.
- Night Lighting of Architecturally Significant Structures  
Well designed up and down lighting to the facades of Corryville Catholic Elementary School, Hughes High School, YMCA, and Old St. George offer strategic experience as one travels through the District.
- Interior Illumination  
Encourage store owners to increase the illumination along the storefront, entries, and arcades to make spaces more welcoming at night.